

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of September 15, 2005. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-14, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunham et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,854,035) in view of Cambron (U.S. Pat. No. 6,539,027). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Dunham fails to disclose allowing interaction with icons and/or line segments to affect a status of a link. The Examiner relies on Cambron to disclose this structure. However, Cambron does not show, teach, or suggest allowing interaction with the icons and/or line segments to automatically affect link status. Cambron discloses interacting with network topology on a graphical user interface as described in Column 4, Lines 7-19. However, the interaction with the network topology does not affect the actual operation of the network. Instead, a user must “add spans, which are actual circuits, to the links” after the network topology is “laid out onscreen.” Column 4, Lines 16-18. The user first interacts with the graphical user interface, and then must subsequently perform physical alterations. For example, “after the node interconnections are fully defined, the user may add the appropriate access cards to each node to enable connection.” Column 12, Lines 22-24. In other words, the interaction is merely graphical and does not automatically affect link status.

Cambron discloses interaction with the line segments, not interaction with the links as recited in claim 1.

However, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that "actual links between said plurality of devices are automatically updated according to said interaction." In other words, the SAM module allows interaction with the graphical representations of the devices and/or links (i.e. icons and line segments, respectively) in order to manipulate the status of the actual links between the devices. Cambron, either singly or in combination with Dunham, does not show, teach, or suggest such a structure. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as its corresponding dependent claims, is in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claims 10 and 19 to include subject matter analogous to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 10 and 19, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, are allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunham et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,854,035) in view of Cambron (U.S. Pat. No. 6,539,027) and further in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,594,696). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

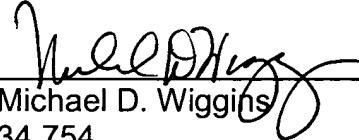
Claims 6 and 15 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Applicants believe claims 1 and 10 are now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and remarks above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 15 should be allowable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/19/05

By: 
Michael D. Wiggins
34,754

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

[MDW/dma]